

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TEL AV 00195 061015Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCS-06 CA-01 H-01 /019 W
-----083249 061054Z /17

R 051654Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 370

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE TEL AVIV 0195

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: CASC, IS
SUBJECT: VISIT OF REV. ROBERT M. KINLOCK'S GROUP TO ISRAEL

REF: A) 77 TEL AVIV 11289; B) 77 TEL AVIV 9585 AND PREVIOUS

1. MR. LARRY LEWIS, A BLACK US/ISRAELI CITIZEN, WHO ACCOMPANIED THE KINLOCK GROUP DURING ITS CALL ON MINISTER BURG, DECEMBER 26, HAS PROVIDED THE FOLLOWING ACCOUNT OF THE MEETING.

2. ACCORDING TO LEWIS, MINISTER BURG OPENED THE MEETING WITH A HISTORICAL REVIEW OF THE BLACK HEBREW COMMUNITY'S EXPERIENCE IN ISRAEL. THE MINISTER ASSURED HIS VISITORS THAT ALTHOUGH THE COMMUNITY HAS SURREPTITIOUSLY GROWN IN NUMBERS FROM THE ORIGINAL SEVEN FAMILIES ADMITTED IN 1968, HE HAS ON NO OCCASION CALLED UPON THE POLICE FORCE TO COERCE COMPLIANCE WITH ISRAELI IMMIGRATION LAWS. MINISTER BURG TOLD THE KINLOCK GROUP THAT HE IS CONSIDERING A SPECIAL COMMITTEE COMPOSED OF PROMINENT ISRAELIS, INCLUDING CHRISTIANS, WHO WOULD MEET WITH THE LEADERSHIP OF THE BLACK HEBREW COMMUNITY TO OBTAIN:

- A) A FULL LISTING OF THE NAMES OF THOSE WHO CONSTITUTE MEMBERS OF THE BLACK HEBREW COMMUNITY; AND
- B) A LISTING OF THOSE MEMBERS WHO WISH TO REMAIN PERMANENTLY IN ISRAEL.

BASED ON THE FOREGOING INFORMATION, THE MINISTRY PRESUMABLY WOULD BE ABLE TO DEVISE A FORMULA FOR PROVIDING RESIDENCE
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STATUS FOR LONG-TIME MEMBERS OF THE BLACK HEBREW COMMUNITY AT DIMONA, ARAD AND MITZPE RIMON.

COMMENT: BEGIN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE. THE PUBLIC COMMITTEE DESCRIBED BY MINISTER BURG APPEARS TO BE A REFINEMENT OF THE MINISTRY COMMISSION WHICH DR. BURG HAD PROMISED CONGRESSMAN CHARLES DIGGS WOULD BE SENT TO DIMONA DURING THE LAST WEEK OF NOVEMBER 1977

(REF A). NO MINISTRY COMMISSION, TO OUR KNOWLEDGE, HAS EVER
BEEN DESPATCHED TO DIMONA. IT APPEARS LESS LIKELY THAT A
PUBLIC COMMISSION AS DESCRIBED BY THE MINISTER TO THE KINLOCK
PARTY, WILL EVER BE FORMED OR VISIT DIMONA. END LIMITED OFFICIAL
USE.
LEWIS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 05 jan 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978TELAV00195
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780010-0216
Format: TEL
From: TEL AVIV
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780194/aaaadbqg.tel
Line Count: 68
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 51a101e6-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 TEL AVIV 11289, 77 TEL AVIV 9585
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3821386
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: VISIT OF REV. ROBERT M. KINLOCK\ S GROUP TO ISRAEL
TAGS: CASC, IS, (KINLOCK, ROBERT M)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/51a101e6-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014